

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to the After-Final amendments filed May 27th, 2008, in which claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14-16, 21-26, 33, 41 and 42 were listed as cancelled and claims 5, 8, 11-13, 17-20, 27-32 and 34-40 remained. The amendments filed May 27th, 2008 have been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5, 8, 11-13, 17-20, 27-32 and 34-40 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 5 is the inclusion of the drive belt further comprising a continuous loop, and the plurality of shafts being driven to synchronous rotation by operation of said drive mechanism in combination with the other structural limitations including the specifics of the frame, platform, drive pulleys and parallel shafts.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 8 is the inclusion of the foldable fence attached to the vertical walls of the apparatus in combination with the other structural limitations including the mounting frame, platform, lift drums in the mechanism.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 11 is the inclusion of the at least one tensioner associated with the at least one lift drum in combination with the other structural limitations including the mounting frame, platform, the drive mechanism disposed substantially within the frame.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 17 is the inclusion of the means coupled to the underside of the platform for detecting impact in combination with the other structural limitations including the frame, platform, drive mechanism.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 18 is the inclusion of the contact plate and plurality of springs on the underside of the platform in combination with the other structural limitations including the frame, platform, and drive mechanism.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 20 is the inclusion of the retractable wheel coupled to the underside of the platform in combination with the other structural limitations including the frame, platform, drive shafts and lift drums.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 27 is the inclusion of the foldable fence connected to the vertical walls of the platform in combination with the other structural limitations including the frame, platform and drive mechanism comprising first and second rotatable shafts, corresponding lift drums and drive pulleys.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 29 is the inclusion of the seal on the platform in combination with the other structural limitations including the frame, platform, and drive mechanism including the lift drums and pulleys.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 30 is the inclusion of at least one tensioner associated with the at least one lift drum in combination with the other structural limitations including the frame, platform and drive shafts.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 36 is the inclusion of the idler lift drum on the second shaft and operatively coupled to the at least one drive pulley of the

first shaft, in combination with the other structural limitations including the frame, platform and drive mechanism.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 37 is the inclusion of the impact detecting means coupled to the underside of the platform in combination with the other structural limitations including the frame, drive shafts and lift drums.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 38 is the inclusion of the contact plate and springs in combination with the other structural limitations including the frame, platform, drive shafts and lift drums.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 40 is the inclusion of the retractable wheel in combination with the other structural limitations including the frame, platform, first and second drive shafts and drive pulleys.

The applicant's amendments to claims present a combination of structural elements and limitations that is not anticipated by references such as the prior art of record. Absent the applicant's disclosure the prior art of record fails to disclose such a combination of elements in such orientation and specific mounting environment and operation and with additional features such as foldable fencing, retractable wheels and impact detecting means. Such a combination of elements, orientation and specific mounting relationships would not be anticipated in any combination of the prior art of record without hindsight.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to COLLEEN M. QUINN whose telephone number is (571)272-6289. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katherine Mitchell can be reached on (571) 272-7069. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

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USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/C. M. Q./

Examiner, Art Unit 3634